MEMORANDUM

To: Jere Johnson, EPA Region IX
Work Assignment Manager

From: William E. Ritthaler, URS Consultants, Inc. WR

Subject: Completed Work

cc: Jeri Simmons, EPA Region IX Contract Officer
Travis Cain, EPA Region IX Project Officer

Attached is the following completed:

PA: ☑ PA Review: ☐ SI: ☐ ESI: ☐ SIRe: ☐

Other: _____

Site Name: Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)
Latitude: ~~34~~° 14' 30" N
Longitude: ~~118~~° 36' 12" W
EPA ID#: CAD008508475 (346)
City, County: Chatsworth, Los Angeles
State Recommendation:
(for reviews only)

For EPA Use Only

EPA Further Action Determination: SEA
Lead Agency: F
Sign-off Date: 9.23.93
Initials of Site Assessment Manager: _____
Document Screening Coordinator: JMJ 9/23/93
Chief, Site Evaluation and Grants Section: TAS 9/23

9/23/93

0209

FINAL EPA File Copy

Purpose: CERCLA Preliminary Assessment

Site: Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311
Los Angeles County

Site EPA ID Number:	CAD008508475
URS Investigators:	Des Garner Samuel Won
Date of Inspection:	June 15, 1993
Report Prepared By:	Des Garner
Report Reviewed By:	Chris Nelson
Review/Concurrence:	William E. Kirkham
Report Date:	August 10, 1993
Document Control No.:	62310.20.33.197 05.a.1
Submitted To:	Jere Johnson EPA Region IX Work Assignment Manager

1.0 Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX, under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) has tasked URS Consultants, Inc. (URS) to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Chatsworth Products (formerly Dracon Industries) site, in Chatsworth, Los Angeles County, California.

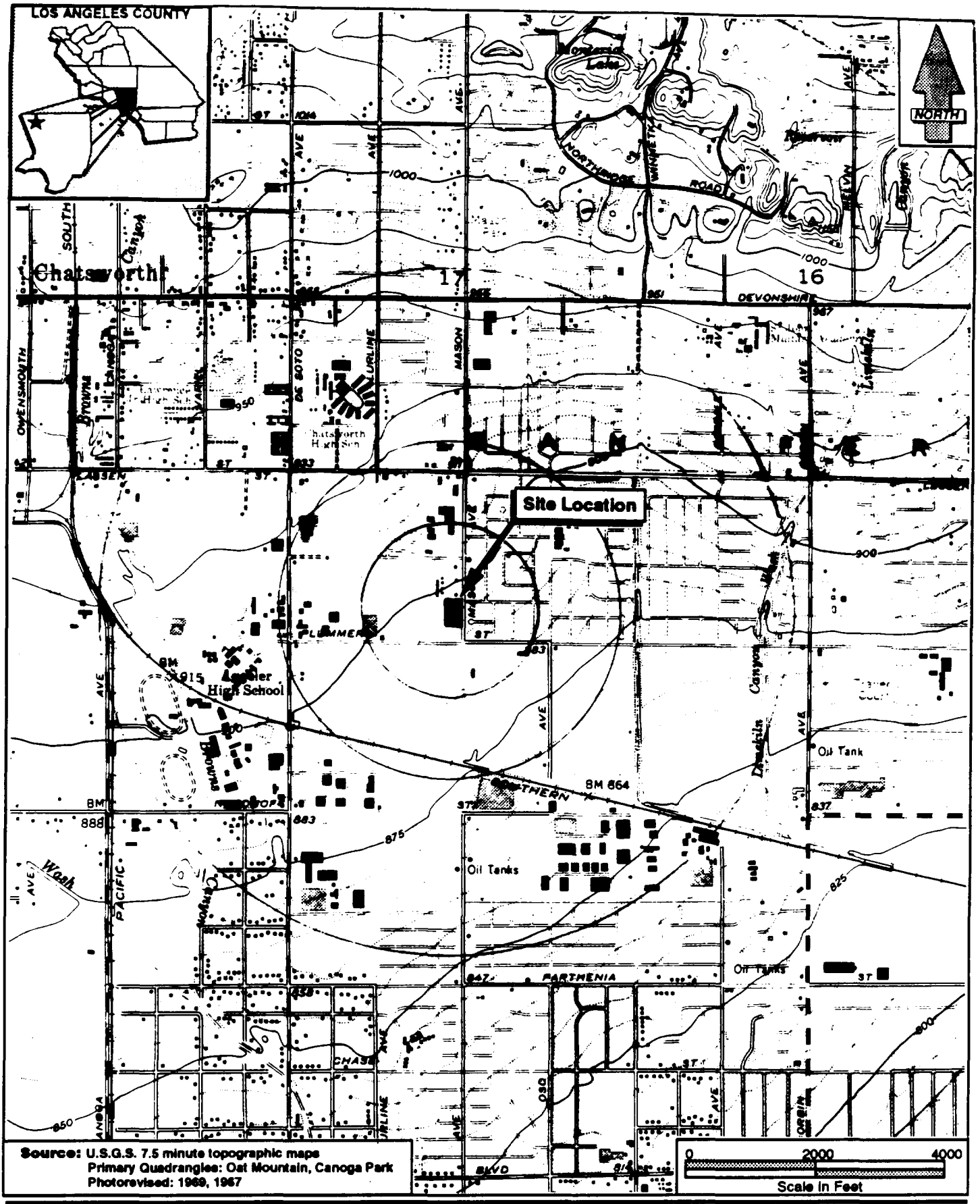
The purpose of the PA is to review existing information on the site and its environs to assess the threat(s), if any, posed to public health, welfare, or the environment and to determine if further investigation under CERCLA/SARA is warranted. The scope of the PA includes the review of information available from federal, state, and local agencies, and performance of an on-site reconnaissance visit.

Using these sources of information, the site is then evaluated using EPA's Hazard Ranking System (HRS) criteria to assess the relative threat associated with actual or potential releases of hazardous substances at the site. The HRS has been adopted by EPA to help set priorities for further evaluation and eventual remedial action at hazardous waste sites. The HRS is the primary method of determining a site's eligibility for placement on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL identifies sites at which EPA may conduct remedial response actions. This report summarizes URS' findings of these preliminary investigative activities.

The site was listed in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database on July 1, 1991 as Dracon Industries, part of the Harris Corporation. However, the facility is now known as Chatsworth Products, following an employee buy-out of the company in July 1991 (1). Chatsworth Products is not affiliated with the Harris Group of companies. The facility was listed under its new name, Chatsworth Products, in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRIS) database on July 27, 1991.

1.1 Apparent Problem

The Chatsworth Products facility, located in the city of Chatsworth, Los Angeles County, manufactures aluminum, steel, and plastic racking components associated with the communications and computer industries (see Figure 1, Site Location Map). The aluminum component manufacturing process involves treatment to give a decorative chromium finish. This process generates effluent which is treated by precipitation and filtration. Treated waste water is discharged in accordance with a City of Los Angeles Industrial Wastewater permit; the filter cake generated is disposed of at a permitted facility. Chemical storage at the facility includes acids and bases associated with the aluminum treatment process, detergents and wastewater treatment chemicals, and cutting and lubricating oils. There are no underground storage tanks at the facility (1, 2, 3, 6).



Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic maps
Primary Quadrangles: Oat Mountain, Canoga Park
Photorevised: 1969, 1967

URS Consultants
100 California Street Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111
July 19, 1993

Site Location Map

Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311

FIGURE

1

2.0 Site Description

2.1 Site Location

The Chatsworth Products facility is located at 9541 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth, California, in the northwestern San Fernando Valley. The latitude and longitude of the site are 34° 14' 30" North and 118° 36' 12" West: Township 2 North, Range 16 West, Section 17 (see Figure 1). The facility is located in a residential/industrial neighborhood with a residential development located directly across from the facility on Mason Avenue; other industries share the city block on which Chatsworth is located (3).

2.2 Site Description

The Chatsworth Products facility is a 50,900-square-foot, single-story building located at the corner of Plummer Street and Mason Avenue. The surrounding lot is paved for parking, and includes a loading dock area and a fenced hazardous materials/hazardous waste storage area. The facility is situated in a densely populated industrial/residential neighborhood, in the northwestern extreme of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, 2 miles south of the Santa Susana Mountains. Approximately 102 personnel work at the facility, with additional temporary personnel engaged on an as-needed basis (3).

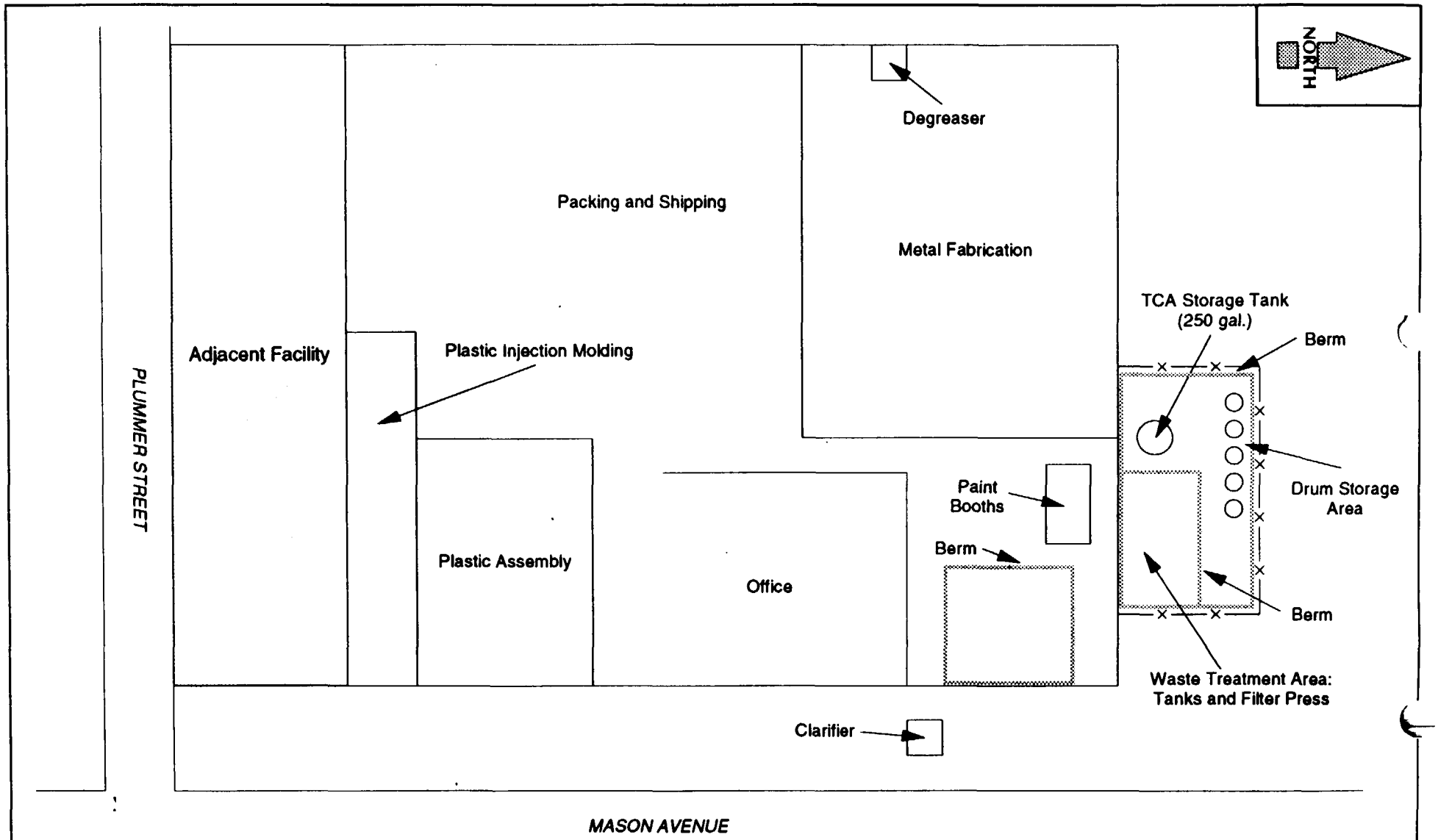
There is a fenced, bermed hazardous materials/hazardous waste storage area located adjacent to the north of the facility, with a maximum storage capacity of approximately fifty 55-gallon drums (see Figure 2, Facility Map). The area has a sealed, bermed concrete floor, as does the adjacent waste treatment area (Photographs 5,6). URS observed no evidence of any spillage, or of any breach in the containment berm, or cracking of the flooring in either of these areas during the site reconnaissance visit on June 15, 1993 (3).

The interior of the facility consists of metals fabrication areas, paint booths, and an aluminum finishing area. The eight tanks (20,000 gallons total volume) comprising the aluminum treatment (Irridite) process are located in a bermed area with a sealed concrete floor (3).

2.3 Operational History

Dracon Industries moved into the Mason Avenue facility in 1974, the first tenant to occupy the building. Prior to the construction of this building, the site was undeveloped farm land, essentially unchanged since 1928, according to a review of aerial photography conducted by Geraghty & Miller in 1991 (2). Dracon Industries operated at the site from 1974 until June 1991, at which time the company was bought out by its employees, forming Chatsworth Products, Inc. Chatsworth Products is currently owned by its employees.

The company has been manufacturing aluminum, steel, and plastics components during its occupancy of the premises, with only detail modifications to its processes (2, 3). The manufacturing processes conducted at the Chatsworth facility are described in the following sections.



SOURCE: Environmental Baseline Survey (Phase 1 - Phase 3) Geraghty & Miller, February 1991

NOT TO SCALE

URS Consultants
100 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
July 1, 1993

FACILITY MAP
Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Ave., Chatsworth, CA

FIGURE
2

Aluminum Finishing Process

The principal chemical usage at the Chatsworth site is associated with the decorative finishing of aluminum rack components manufactured at the facility. These components pass through a series of treatment tanks to degrease, rinse, etch, deoxidize, and chromium finish the components, culminating in the application of a polymer protective coat (Oakite Clearcote). The following series of tanks is used in the process:

1. Detergent
2. Rinse: Non-contact water from plastics molding operations
3. Sodium Hydroxide Solution
4. Chromic Acid Solution
5. Rinse: Discharge to Treatment System
6. Sodium Chromate Solution
7. Rinse
8. Polymer Finish

Tanks 1 through 7 are 2,500-gallon capacity tanks; tank 8 is a 450-gallon capacity tank. Water from tank 2 is continually discharged via the clarifier to the sewer, in accordance with an Industrial Wastewater Permit held by the facility. Tank 5 is used to rinse components after the chromium treatment of tank 6 (the components do not follow a strictly sequential path through the process) and is thus contaminated with significant quantities of chromium and other metals, and typically has a pH of less than 5 (3). This water is pumped to three 1,500-gallon treatment tanks in the treatment area outside the facility, where the metals are precipitated out, and the pH is adjusted to within permitted discharge range (5.5-11.0). The treated effluent water is then discharged to the sewer, via a clarifier. A total of approximately 8,000 gallons per day is discharged, in accordance with the permitted discharge maximum (10,000 gallons per day) (13). The filter cake generated by the filter press is a non-RCRA, California listed waste (California Waste Number 171 [3]) since it does not exceed Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) metals concentrations, and it is not a hazardous waste by characteristic of corrosivity. Approximately 36,000 pounds of filter press cake is disposed of annually at the Chemical Waste Management facility in Kettleman Hills, CA. The quantities of filter cake and wastewater generated by operations on-site have remained relatively constant during the history of the facility (3).

Steel Component Fabrication and Finishing

Steel components are fabricated, degreased, and spray painted at the Chatsworth facility. Degreasing was traditionally conducted by wiping down components with 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA), resulting in the generation of as much as 17,000 gallons of waste TCA annually (1992), which was sent for recycling to Detrex, Inc. in Los Angeles. Subsequent to June of 1993, the use of TCA for degreasing has been discontinued, and a less toxic citric acid-based cleaner has been substituted (Biochem Systems BIO-T 200A), generating a non-RCRA wastestream (3).

Plastics Molding

A number of injection molded plastic components are manufactured. Non-contact cooling water generated from the injection molding machines is used as rinse water in tank 2 of the Irridite aluminum treatment process and subsequently discharged to the sewer via the clarifier. No hazardous waste is generated during the plastics operations (3).

Hazardous Materials/Waste Storage Area

Chemical feed stock, and waste chemical and petroleum products are stored in the drum storage area, in a fenced, bermed, impermeably paved area (Photograph 7). Materials stored in this area during the URS site reconnaissance visit were as follows:

- Citric Acid Degreasing Compound (Biochem Systems BIO-T 200A)
- Cutting Oil
- Nitric Acid (Irridite Line)
- Sodium Hydroxide (Irridite Line: Water Treatment)
- Sodium Metabisulfate (Water Treatment)
- Hydrochloric Acid (Irridite Line)
- Detergents (Proprietary Blends)
- 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (125 gallons awaiting removal)
- Filter Cake (Drummed)
- Waste oil

The total quantity of material stored within the fenced area is typically less than twenty 55-gallon drums (3).

General Observations

During the site reconnaissance visit of June 15, 1993, URS personnel observed a high standard of house-keeping throughout the facility, with no spills or stained areas apparent in any of the containment areas. The hazardous waste storage area was well labeled and organized; the bermed containment area showed no cracking or deterioration. The flooring under the Irridite process area was clean and dry, and showed no sign of cracking, seepage, or deterioration (3).

2.4 Regulatory Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In July 1988, the U.S. EPA Region IX de-listed Dracon Industries from the RCRIS database, since the site was determined not to be a treatment storage and disposal facility (TSDF). The facility was apparently listed following a Part A application filed in 1980, in which the facility erroneously stated that it was operating a surface impoundment, and was disposing of waste by ocean dumping. This application was apparently filed in error, and the facility requested that the Permit Application be withdrawn in July 1984. Removal of the facility from the RCRIS database in 1988 was in response to a letter sent to EPA by the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (Cal EPA DTSC) in September 1987 (16).

The Chatsworth Products site was subsequently re-listed on RCRIS as a Large Quantity Generator on June 27, 1991, following the employee buy-out of Dracon Industries.

City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation

The city of Los Angeles administers Industrial Wastewater Permit No. W-482369, for the discharge of less than 10,000 gallons per day of wastewater from the Irridite aluminum treatment process. The permit requires semi-annual analysis of a 24-hour composite sample for metals, cyanide, sulfides, oil and grease, and pH. Personnel from the city of Los Angeles reported no recent violations of the permit (4). Two violations were noted in 1986 when the permit was made more stringent. One sample was outside the permitted level for chromium, copper, and zinc. Later in the year a sample was found to have an unacceptable pH. These deficiencies were corrected, and no further violations were noted (2).

During the URS facility visit, Phil Pinheiro, the Chatsworth Products representative, provided URS with analytical results through June 1993. All sample results reviewed by URS were in accord with permitted discharge levels (3).

California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (Cal EPA DTSC)

Cal EPA DTSC conducted a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Inspection (Interim Status) in November 1982, following Interim Status Document issuance on December 30, 1981. A subsequent inspection conducted in December 1983 revealed shortcomings in warning placards at the hazardous materials storage area, and more importantly, a deficiency in the berming of the storage area. The facility corrected these deficiencies during 1984. After the 1983 inspection, there was no Cal EPA DTSC activity at this site until 1987, when the agency wrote to EPA requesting that the facility not be regulated as a TSDF, as discussed in the U.S. EPA section above (13).

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

The SCAQMD has issued Chatsworth Products permit numbers M31409 and M31410 for the operation of two paint spray booths (3). Facility files include two Notices of Violation under permit number M31409, in 1985 and 1989, both for minor permit infractions. The 1989 violation resulted in the levy of a $700 fine. There are no violations subsequent to 1989 (2, 3).

Los Angeles County Health Department

Los Angeles County Health Department has had little involvement with the Chatsworth site. Inspections have been principally carried out by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Cal EPA DTSC. There are no underground storage tanks at this site (3).

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (RWQCB)

RWQCB (Los Angeles Region) is not involved with this site (5).

3.0 Hazard Ranking System Factors

The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a scoring system used to assess the relative threat associated with actual or potential releases of hazardous substances from sites. It is the principal mechanism EPA uses to place sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). URS has evaluated the following HRS factors relative to this site.

3.1 Sources of Contamination

The hazardous waste on-site is stored in closed 55-gallon drums in the hazardous waste storage area. This area is fenced, bermed, and impermeably surfaced; thus the materials stored are not available to interact with the environment (3).

At the time of the property transfer between Dracon Industries and Chatsworth Products (1991), Dracon commissioned an Environmental Baseline Survey by Geraghty & Miller, (6). This investigation included subsurface soil sampling at areas thought to pose the potential for off-site contaminant migration via groundwater. Soil samples taken at 25 feet below ground surface (bgs) adjacent to the clarifier and at 14 feet bgs along the pipeline connecting the treatment system to the clarifier both showed no volatile hydrocarbon contamination and no metals contamination above background (6). Volatile organics were analyzed by EPA method 8240; California Title 22 metals (Total Threshold Limit Concentrations) were analyzed by the appropriate EPA methods. Additional samples taken at 25 feet and 15 feet bgs in the metals wipe down area, loading dock, and compressor area were all non-detect for volatile organics and background levels for the CA Title 22 metals. The sample taken at 25 feet bgs from the northeast corner of the waste storage area was again non-detect for volatile organic contaminants, with the exception of 5.2 micrograms per kilogram (µg/Kg) of TCA (the method quantitation limit was 5 µg/Kg). This concentration is insignificant when compared to the reference dose screening concentration for TCA in soil of (52,000,000 µg/Kg) (7). For comparison, the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is 200 micrograms per liter (µg/L) (7).

3.2 Groundwater Pathway

3.2.1 Hydrogeologic Setting

Chatsworth Industries is located in the San Fernando Valley Basin (8). The groundwater in Chatsworth and the surrounding cities is not used for drinking water because of its poor quality. Drinking water is supplied by surface water via the California aqueduct (11).

3.2.2 Groundwater Targets

Since groundwater is not used as a drinking water source in this part of the San Fernando Valley, there are no targets (11).

3.2.3 Groundwater Conclusions

There have been no observed releases related to this facility, nor is there any potential for groundwater release. (An observed release is when the chemical analysis of an environmental sample from a site is found to be three or more times above the background concentration, and some portion of the release is attributable to the site.) The San Fernando NPL site lies about 9 miles southeast of the Chatsworth Products facility and is unrelated (6, 9).

3.3 Surface Water Pathway

3.3.1 Hydrologic Setting

Chatsworth Products is located at an elevation of approximately 900 feet, in the northwestern San Fernando Valley, approximately 2 miles south of the Santa Susana Mountains (10). Surface drainage is south, although city storm drains intercept any runoff before it reaches the concrete-lined Los Angeles River 3.5 miles to the south of the site. The nearest surface waterway is the Browns Canyon Wash, 0.75 miles to the east of the site, which is dry most of the year. The Chatsworth Reservoir is 2 miles to the west of the site (6, 10). The site is located in a 500-year floodplain; net annual precipitation is 7.38 inches; and the 2-year, 24-hour precipitation is 3 inches (14,15).

3.3.3 Surface Water Conclusion

There is no potential for any runoff originating in the bermed, paved waste storage area to reach any surface water body within 2 miles of the Chatsworth Products site.

3.4 Soil Exposure and Air Pathways

3.4.1 Physical Conditions

All chemical storage areas on-site are fenced, bermed, and impermeably paved, presenting no soil exposure pathways. The only product associated with the site that has a potential for air release is the 1,1,1-TCA, 125 gallons of which remains in storage in the 250-gallon tank within the bermed waste storage area. This is scheduled to be returned to the supplier within the next few months, and the tank is to be removed, since this material is no longer used at the facility (3).

4.0 Emergency Response Considerations

The National Contingency Plan [40 CFR 300.415 (b) (2)] authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to consider emergency response actions at those sites which pose an imminent threat to human health or the environment. For the following reasons emergency actions do not appear to be necessary for this site.

- There are no uncontained/uncontrolled sources of hazardous waste at this functioning facility.
- There is no imminent and substantial endangerment presented to the surrounding population and environment (NCP: CFR 40 Section 300.130).

5.0 Summary

Dracon Industries became subject to an employee buy-out in June 1991, reforming as Chatsworth Products. The facility is a 50,900-square-foot, single-story building, located at 9541 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth, Los Angeles County, California. Chatsworth Products employs 102 personnel. The lot surrounding the building is paved for parking, and

includes a fenced bermed storage area in which drummed hazardous waste and hazardous materials are stored.

The facility manufactures aluminum and steel racking and injection molded plastic components for the telecommunications industry. The principal chemical usage is for the decorative chromium finishing of the aluminum components, involving treatment in a series of chemical tanks. Acidic metals containing effluent generated from the aluminum treatment line are treated by precipitation and filtration. The treated effluent is discharged to the sewer via a clarifier, according to a City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation Industrial Wastewater permit. The filter cake generated during this process is disposed of as a non Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) California waste at the Chemical Waste Management facility in Kettleman Hills, California.

Chlorinated solvents are no longer used for degreasing steel components before painting. Chlorinated solvents have been replaced with a citric acid-based cleaning product. Steel components are spray painted in two paint booths, permitted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Soil sampling conducted in 1991 at 15-25 feet below grade at several points outside the facility at which waste or chemicals were stored demonstrated no volatile organic or metals contamination.

The following are the Hazard Ranking System factors pertinent to this site:

- The site is fully paved. There are no surface or groundwater migration pathways.
- Groundwater is not used for drinking within 4 miles of the site.
- The site is an operating facility in full compliance with pertinent local and federal regulations. There have been no violations of the Wastewater Discharge Permit within the last year.

REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION IX

Site Name: Chatsworth Products **EPA ID #:** CAD008508475

Alias Site Names: Dracon Industries

City: Chatsworth **County or Parish:** Los Angeles County **State:** CA

Refer to Report Dated: August 10, 1993 **Report Type:** Preliminary Assessment

Report developed by: URS Consultants, Inc.

DECISION:

☒ **1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:**

☒ 1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA (Site Evaluation Accomplished - SEA)

☐ 1b. Site may qualify for further action, but is deferred to: ☐ RCRA ☐ NRC

☐ **2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA**

2a. (optional) Priority: ☐ Higher ☐ Lower

2b. Activity Type ☐ PA ☐ ESI ☐ SI ☐ HRS evaluation

☐ Other_____

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

No releases of evidence of contamination.

Report Reviewed and Approved by: J M Johnson **Signature:** J M Johnson **Date:** 9.23.93

Site Decision Made by: J M Johnson **Signature:** J M Johnson **Date:** 9.23.93

References

1. Pinheiro, P., Environmental & Safety Manager, Chatsworth Products Inc., and D. Garner, URS Consultants Inc., telephone conversation, June 1, 1993.

2. Geraghty & Miller Inc., *Environmental Baseline Survey, Phases 1-3:* February 11, 1993.

3. Pinheiro, P. and Mendenhall, M., Chatsworth Products, and D. Garner and Samuel Won, URS Consultants, Inc., Site Reconnaissance Interview, June 15, 1993.

4. Lapid, B., City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, and D. Garner, URS Consultants, Inc., telephone conversation, May 25, 1993.

5. Ross, J., CA RWQCB, to W. Ritthaler, URS Consultants, Inc., letter, May 26, 1993.

6. Geraghty & Miller Inc., *Environmental Baseline Survey, Phase 4,* April 24, 1993.

7. Superfund Chemical Data Matrix, Appendix B-1, *Tables for Non-Radioactive Hazardous Substances,* March 6, 1993.

8. State of California Department of Water Resources: Groundwater Basins in California, 1985.

9. Mayer, K., U.S. EPA, and C. Nelson, URS Consultants, Inc., telephone conversation, April 23, 1993.

10. USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Canoga park Quadrangle, Photorevised 1967.

11. Bucharowski, D., CA RWQCB, and D. Garner, URS Consultants, Inc., telephone conversation, May 25, 1993.

12. Biagi, D., City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, *Industrial Wastewater Permit, Number W-482369,* expiration date January 6, 1994.

13. Hinton, J.A., Chief, Facility Permitting Unit, Cal EPA DTSC, to W. Young, W. Harris, Corporation-Dracon Division, letter September 8, 1987.

14. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite Data & Information Service, National Climatic Data Center, Comparative Climatic Data for the United States through 1985, Nashville, TN.

15. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas II, Precipitation-Frequency Atlas of the Western United States.

16. Wilson, William D., U.S. EPA, Chief Program Management Section, to John A. Hinton, Cal EPA DTSC, letter, June 28, 1988.

Appendix A
Contact Log and Reports

Contact Log

Facility Name: **Chatsworth Products Inc.**
Facility ID#: **CAD008508475**

Contact	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
Kevin Mayer	U.S. EPA	(415) 744-2260	4/23/93	See Contact Report.
Bruce Lapid	City of LA, Bureau of Sanitation	(213) 485-5886	5/25/93	See Contact Report.
Karl Trip	City of LA, Bureau of Sanitation	(818) 908-4084	5/25/93	See Contact Report.
David Bucharowski	CA RWQCB	(213) 266-7500	5/25/93	The city of Chatsworth and the surrounding area derive their water supply from surface water. Groundwater is not used for drinking.
Jim Ross	CA RWQCB	(213) 266-7600	5/26/93	RWQCB has no involvement with this site.
Mike Stone	LA Dept Water & Power	(213) 481-6285	5/26/93	Groundwater is not used as a drinking water supply in the Chatsworth area.
Phil Pinheiro	Chatsworth Products	(213) 882-8595	6/1/93	See Contact Report.

URS Consultants
Environmental Protection Agency
Site Assessment Program

Contact Report

Contact Made Concerning: **CAD008508475**

Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
County of Los Angeles

Agency or Affiliation Contact: **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX**
Departmen Hazardous Waste Management Division
Address: 75 Hawthorne Street
City, State, Zipcode: San Francisco, CA 94105
County: San Francisco

Representative Contact:

	1.	2.	3.
Name:	Kevin Mayer		
Title:	Geologist		
Contact Phone Number:	(415) 744-2260		
Contact Date:	4/23/93		
Contact Facsimile Number:			

Contacted by URS Representative: Chris Nelson

Discussion:

URS contacted Mr. Mayer because he is the Remedial Project Manager for the San Fernando Valley NPL site, and Dracon Industries lies within the San Fernando Valley. URS had inquired as to whether the site lies within the boundaries of the NPL site or anywhere near the contaminated groundwater plume. Chatsworth lies at the western end of the San Fernando Valley of the Los Angeles area. Mr. Mayer indicated that he had not heard of the Dracon Industries site, and he also indicated that Chatsworth was several miles to the west of the plume area. The San Fernando Valley NPL areas lie mostly near the cities of Glendale, Pasadena, and Los Angeles. The plume lies essentially to the east of the intersection of Highway 5 and the Hollywood Freeway.

End Contact Report

This contact report was sent for confirmation by: ☐ Letter ☐ Phone ☐ Fax ☐ Other _____

This contact report was reviewed by:
(Signature and Date)
_____

URS Consultants
Environmental Protection Agency
Site Assessment Program

Contact Report

Contact Made Concerning: **CAD008508475**

Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
County of Los Angeles

Agency or Affiliation Contact: **City of Los Angeles**
Department: Dept. Public Works, Bureau, Sanitation
Address: 4590 Colorado Blvd.
City, State, Zipcode: Los Angeles, CA 90039
County: Los Angeles

Representative Contact:

	1.	2.	3.
Name:	Bruce Lapid	Karl Trip	
Title:	Inspector		
Contact Phone Number:	(213) 485-5886	(818) 908-4084	
	5/25/93	5/25/93	

Contacted by URS Representative: Des Garner

Discussion:

Karl Trip's office referred URS to the LA City Industrial Waste Office located at the Glendale treatment plant. Bruce Lapid identified Chatsworth Products as a permitted discharger of less than 10,000 gallons per day (gpd), with an average discharge (last quarter) of 2,192 gpd. Mr. Lapid had no record of any violations of the discharge permit, and quoted the following sample results (1/5/93):

Metal	Sample Result	Permitted Discharge	
		Daily Max.	Monthly Avg.
Chromium VI	ND	N/A	N/A
Chromium III	0.042 ppm	2.43 ppm	1.5 ppm
Cadmium	0.002 ppm	0.6 ppm	0.23 ppm
Nickel	0.008 ppm	3.49 ppm	2.09 ppm
Zinc	0.095 ppm	2.29 ppm	1.30 ppm

ppm = parts per million

Contact Report (continued)

Discussion, continued:

Based on the above sample results, the effluent discharged by the facility is easily within permit limits. The following are the permit details:

Industrial User No. IU000175
Permit No. W-482369
Effective Date: 9/18/91
Amended Date: 1/6/93
Expiration Date: 1/30/94

The permit is listed as "Metals Finishing Category" 40 CFR 433, Subpart A.

In accordance with the LA Municipal Code Section 64.30, Chatsworth Products is authorized to discharge industrial wastewater to the LA sewer system, as specified by this permit.

This contact report was sent for confirmation by: ☐ Letter ☐ Phone ☐ Fax ☐ Other _____

This contact report was reviewed by:
(Signature and Date)

URS Consultants
Environmental Protection Agency
Site Assessment Program

Contact Report

Contact Made Concerning: **CAD008508475**
Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
County of Los Angeles

Agency or Affiliation Contact: **Chatsworth Products Inc.**
Department: Environmental & Safety Manager
Address: 9541 Mason Avenue
City, State, Zipcode: Chatsworth, CA 91311
County: Los Angeles

Representative Contact:

	1.	2.	3.
Name:	Phil Pinheiro		
Title:	Environmental Mgr.		
Contact Phone Number:	(213) 882-8595		
	6/1/93		

Contacted by URS Representative: Des Garner

Discussion:

Dracon Industries was subject to an employee buy-out in July 1991 and subsequently became Chatsworth Products. The site is still entered in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database under the original name Dracon Industries. Chatsworth Products is not a division of the Harris Corporation. At the time of the buy-out an environmental consultant was engaged to facilitate the property transfer, and on-site soil borings were collected and analyzed. Mr. Pinheiro will make the soil boring results available at the time of the URS site visit (6/15/93).

Chatsworth Products manufactures telecommunications equipment, utilizing injection molding of plastics, and the painting and finishing of metal components. The metals treatment line consists of a series of eight tanks, containing the following materials:

1. Detergent (Oakite 61B)
2. Calcium Hydroxide solution rinse
3. Sodium Hydroxide (5 percent solution)
4. Chromic acid solution, containing sulfuric acid and 1 part per million (ppm) hydrofluoric acid
5. Sodium Bisulfite rinse
6. Sodium Chromate solution, 10 percent nitric acid, hydrochloric acid
7. Deionized water
8. Oakite Clearcoat (polymer finish)

In addition, metal components are degreased prior to finishing, using 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Waste TCA is collected for recycling by Detrex, Inc. of Los Angeles. However, Chatsworth Products is currently evaluating a citric acid-based cleaning product as a replacement for TCA in this application.

Discussion, continued:

Effluent from the process line (Irridite process, above) is treated by passing it through a clarifier, followed by subsequent filtration to form a non Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste filter cake. (Apparently the chromium level in the filter cake does not exceed the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) level of 5 ppm.) The filter cake generated is disposed of at the Chemical Waste Management facility at Kettleman Hills, under California Waste Code 171.

Mr. Pinheiro did not have information on the quantities of chemicals currently used on-site, but he was preparing information in anticipation of the URS site visit. Chatsworth Products has a Waste Discharge Permit, as a less than 10,000-gallon per day discharger. The permit is administered by the LA City Industrial Waste Department, which reported no recent violations of the permitted levels for heavy metals (see Los Angeles City, Bureau of Sanitation Contact Report, Reference 4).

This contact report was sent for confirmation by: ☐ Letter ☐ Phone ☐ Fax ☐ Other _____

This contact report was reviewed by:
(Signature and Date)

Appendix B
Site Reconnaissance Interview and Observations Report

URS Consultants
Preliminary Assessment
Site Inspection Team

Site Reconnaissance
Interview and Observation Report

Site Information — CAD008508475

Name:	**Chatsworth Products (Dracon Industries)**
Address:	9541 Mason Avenue
City, State, Zip Code:	Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone Number:	(818) 882-8595
Contact Name:	Phil Pinheiro
Date of Site Visit:	6/15/93
URS Site Visit Team:	Des Garner Sam Won

Site Representatives

Name :	Phil Pinheiro	*Title*	Environmental & Safety Mgr.
	Mark Mendenhall		Vice President, Production

Comments and Observations

URS representatives Des Garner and Sam Won met with Phil Pinheiro of Chatsworth products at 1300 hours, Tuesday, June 15th. Chatsworth Products was formed by an employee buy-out of Dracon Industries in July 1991; the new company has no affiliation with the Harris Corporation.

Chatsworth Products is located in an industrial /residential area, occupying 50,900 square feet. The facility manufactures computer and telecommunications equipment, racking, and shelving, from both aluminum and steel, and employs approximately 102 people. There are other light industrial operations located on the same city block as the Chatsworth facility. A steelworks is located to the north. Operations fall within three distinct areas:

1. Aluminum Fabrication and Treatment

Aluminum components are fabricated and treated with a chromium surface finish (Irridite Process) followed by a protective surface coating. The treatment line consists of a series of seven 2,500-gallon tanks, and one 450-gallon tank, as described in the contact report of 6/1/93 (Phil Pinheiro). The aluminum components pass through a degreasing solution, followed by etching and chromium plating. Various intermediate rinse tanks are also used along the process line. Effluent from the the process line is discharged into three 1,500-gallon tanks where metal contaminants are precipitated. The effluent is subsequently filtered using a filter press, before it is discharged into the sewer system via a clarifier. Approximately 8,000 gallons of treated effluent is discharged per day, in accordance with the City of Los Angeles Industrial Wastewater Permit, which specifies metal concentrations, pH, cyanide, and oil and grease limits.

Comments and Observations (continued) *6/15/93*

Approximately 36,000 lbs of non Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) filter cake (CA Waste Code 171) is disposed of each year to the Chemical Waste Management (CWM) facility at Kettleman Hills, CA. In 1990, approximately 7,000 lbs of filter cake and sludge was disposed of as RCRA hazardous waste (D004-D007 (As, Ba, Cd, Cr)) also to CWM. However, refinements in the manufacturing process have reduced the influent metal concentrations of the wastewater, so that all of the waste can now be disposed of as non-RCRA, California waste, CA Code Number 171.

2. Steel Fabrication Area

Steel components are fabricated and spray painted at the facility. Before painting, the components were degreased by manual wiping using 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (TCA). Spent TCA was recycled by Detrex, Inc. of Los Angeles. This practice has been discontinued: Degreasing is now conducted using a citric acid-based cleaner, which poses less threat to worker health and safety, and generates a non-RCRA waste for disposal. The spray paint booths are permitted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

3. Plastics Molding

A number of injection molded plastic components are manufactured. Non-contact cooling water generated during this process is used as rinse water in the Irridite process. No hazardous waste is generated during the plastics operations.

4. General Observations

URS personnel observed a high standard of house-keeping throughout the manufacturing and storage areas. The hazardous waste storage area immediately outside the Irridite process area was well organized. The area within the berm was swept and dry, with no evidence of any recent spillage. The storage area floor was sealed concrete and showed no sign of cracking.

The flooring under the Irridite area was maintained, clean, and dry, with no signs of cracking or seepage through the sealed concrete floors.

The facility was entirely paved, and there was no evidence of any pathway for surface or groundwater migration from the site.

Appendix C
Photo Log

URS Consultants
100 California Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

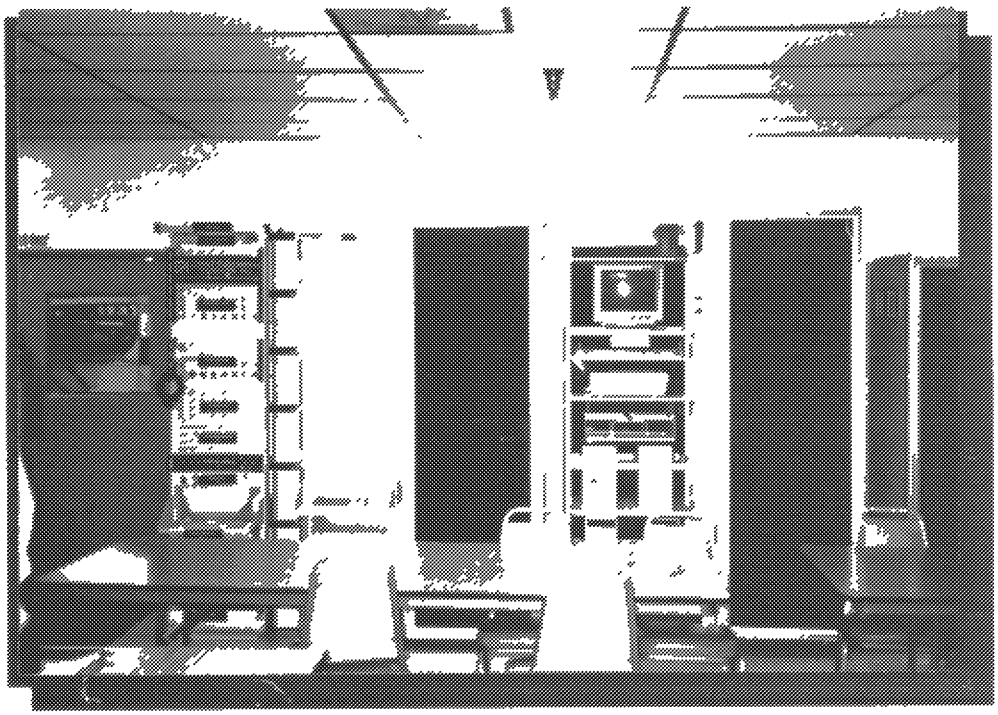
CAD008508475
Chatsworth Products
9841 Mason Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Photo No.: 1
Date: 08/18/98
Time: 1300
Direction: West
Weather: Sunny
Photo by: S Wan

Photograph
Description: [illegible]

CAD008508475
Chatsworth Products
9841 Mason Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Photo No.: 2
Date: 08/18/98
Time: 1330
Direction: North
Weather: NA
Photo by: S Wan



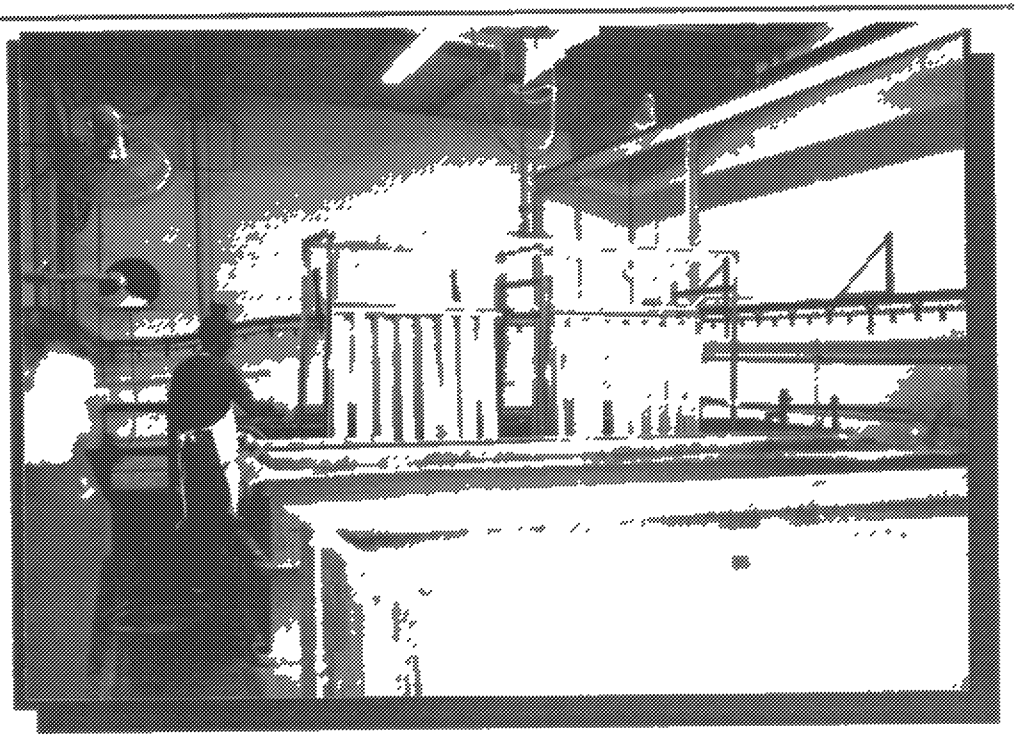
Photograph
Description: [illegible]

URS Consultants
100 California Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

CAD008508475
Chatsworth Products
9641 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth CA 91311

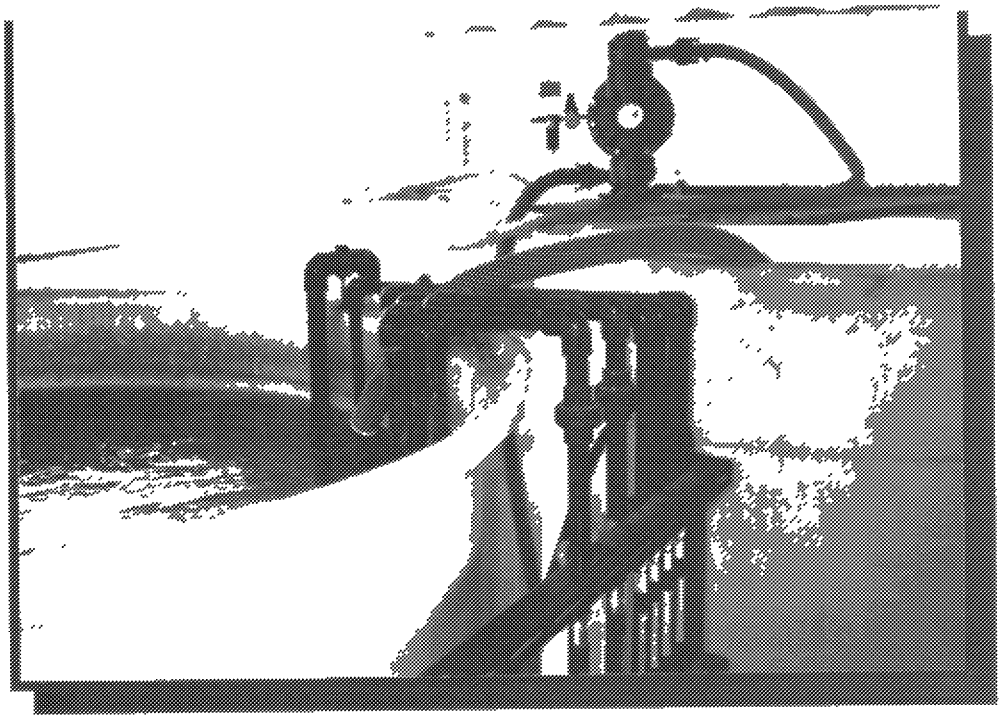
Photo No: 3
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1345
Direction: Northwest
Weather: NA
Photo by: S Wee



Photograph
Description: [illegible]

CAD008508947S
Chatsworth Products
9641 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth CA 91311

Photo No: 4
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1345
Direction: Northeast
Weather: NA
Photo by: S Wee



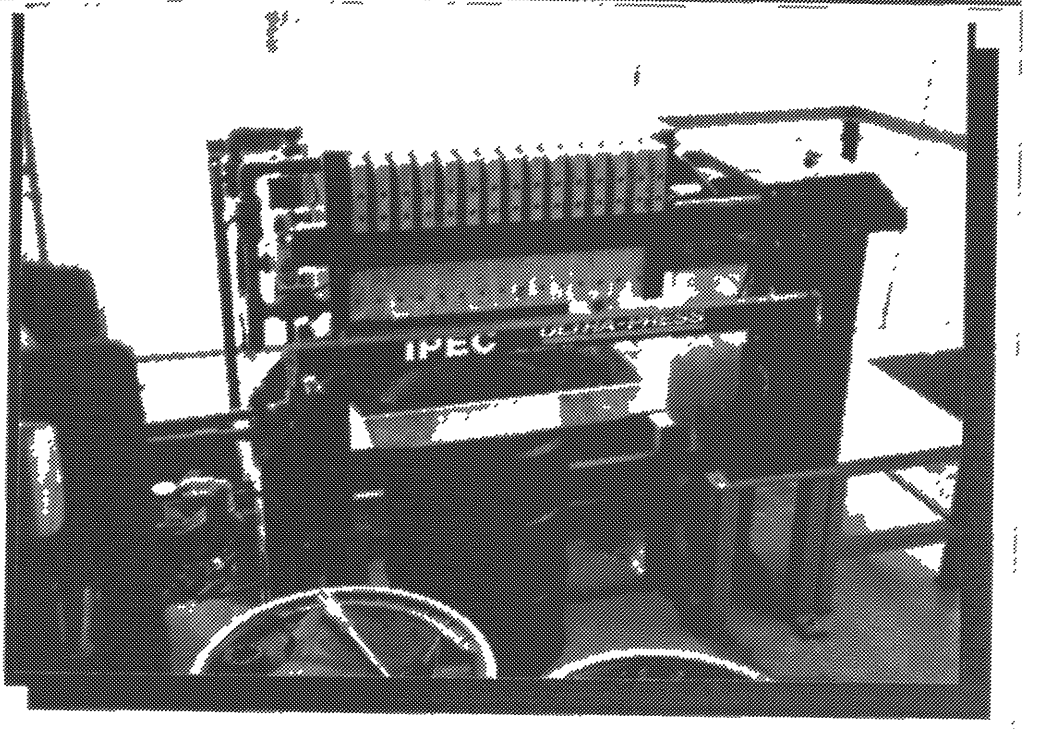
Photograph
Description: [illegible]

URS Consultants
100 California Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

CAD008508475
Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

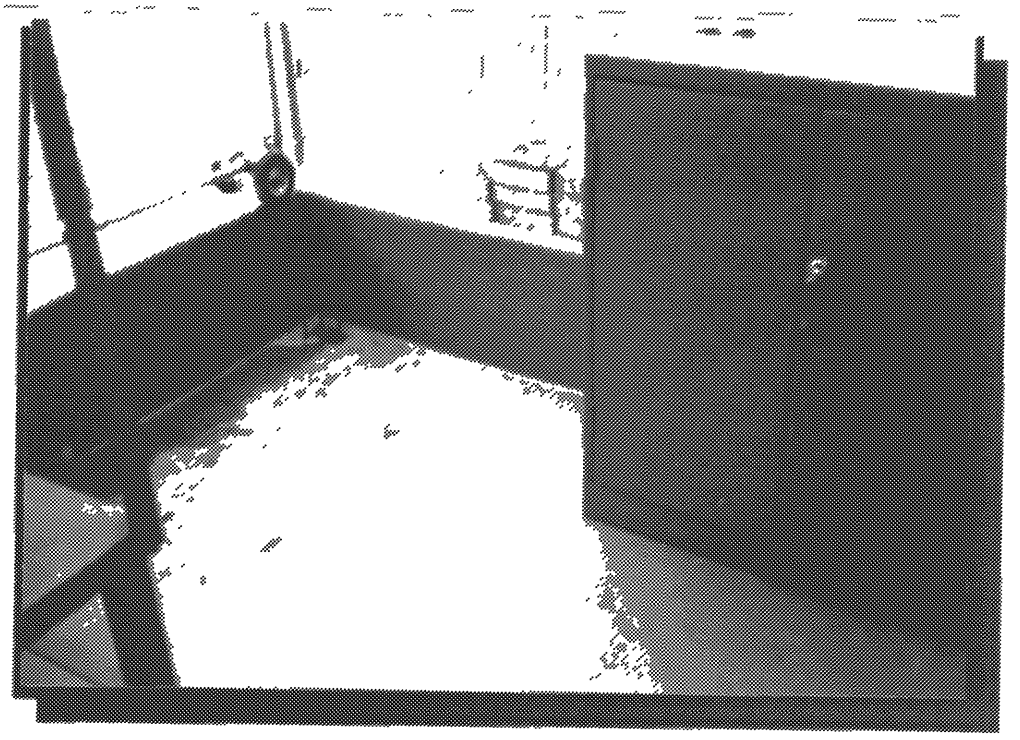
Photo No.: 5
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1415
Direction: North
Weather: Sunny
Photo by: S. Won



Photograph Description: Tube press sealed in thermal treatment area.

CAD008508475
Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Photo No.: 6
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1430
Direction: North
Weather: Sunny
Photo by: S. Won



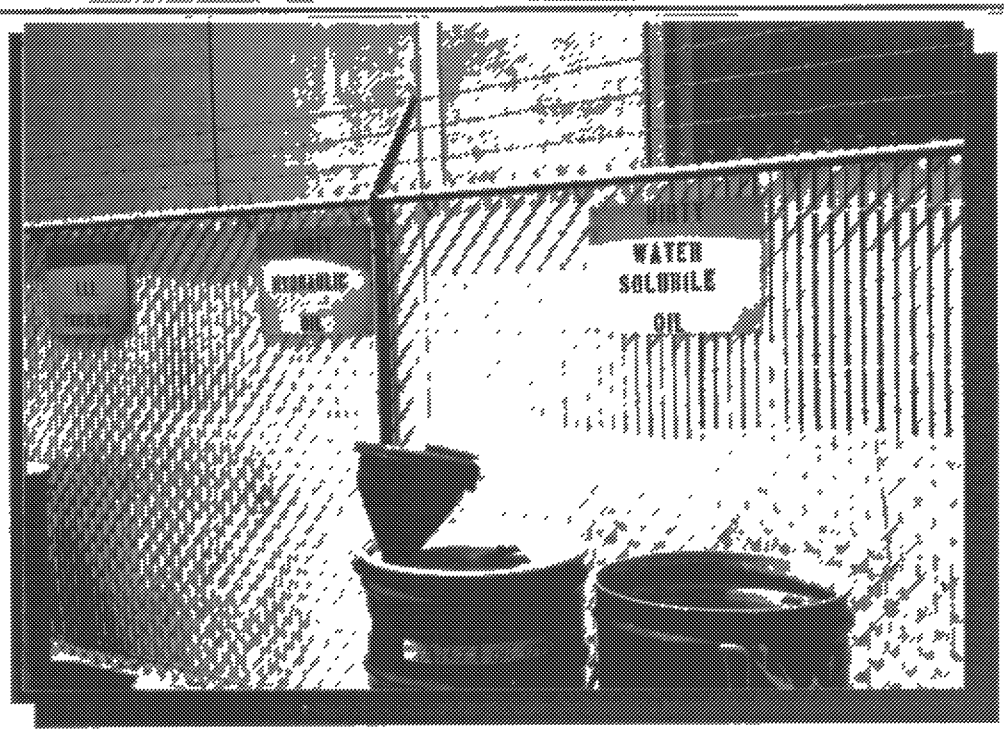
Photograph Description: Container next to thermal treatment area.

URS Consultants
100 California Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

CAD008508473
Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Photo No.: 7
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1430
Direction: North
Weather: Sunny
Photo by: S. Won



Photograph Description: Waste storage area, bermed

CAD008508473
Chatsworth Products
9541 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Photo No.: 8
Date: 06/15/93
Time: 1430
Direction: South
Weather: NA
Photo by: S. Won

Photograph Description: General view of the metal fabrication area

0858

CAD008508475

MEMORANDUM

mailed 2/17/94 CT

To: **Jere Johnson, EPA Region IX**
Work Assignment Manager

From: **William E. Ritthaler, URS Consultants, Inc.** WR

Subject: **Transmittal List for Chatsworth Products** (Dracon Industries)
Preliminary Assessment

URS suggests that the following persons/agencies receive a copy of the document referenced above:

- Chatsworth Products Inc.
  9541 Mason Avenue
  Chatsworth, California 91311
  Attn.: Mr. Phil Pinheiro

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
  1011 W. Grandview Avenue
  Glendale, California 91201
  Attn.: Miguel Monroy

- City of Los Angeles
  Department of Public Works
  Bureau of Sanitation
  4590 Colorado Boulevard
  Los Angeles, California 90039
  Attn.: Delwin Biagi